(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) VSNL share price started coming down from 10th February, 2000 and the trend reversed after 25th May, 2000 when the price started increasing.

(b) Date-wise share price of VSNL from 1st February, 2000 to 30th June, 2000 is given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 193, Annexure No. 4]

(c) September 6, 2000.

(d) Yes. Sir.

(e) The slide was in keeping with the general movement of BSE IT index.

(f) and (g) Question do not arise in view of (e) above.

Rules framed for Gramin Dak Sewaks

207. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the designation of the Extra Departmental Agents (EDA) in Department of Posts has been changed to "Gramin Dak Sewaks";

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken to settle the long pending demands of EDAs;

(c) whether specific rules have been formulated regarding the pay scales, working conditions etc. for the Gramin Dak Sewaks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Gramin Dak Sevaks are employed for a period of duty ranging from 2 to 5 hours a day. They do not form part of the regular civil services and their terms and conditions of employment are governed by separate set of rules, earlier named P&T ED Agents

(Conduct & Service) Rules, 1964, and now amended as Gramin Dak Sevaks (Conduct & Employment) Rules, 2001, incorporating the changed nomenclature of EDAs and also the specific characteristics of the ED system. In the context of Fifth Central Pay Commission for regular Central Government Employees, the Government had set up a one-man committee headed by Justice Charanjit Talwar to examine the wage structure and other conditions of employment of ED Agents. After due consideration of the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee, the Government extended the following package of benefits to Gramin Dak Sevaks:—

(i) Increasing the monthly allowance of Gramin Dak Sevaks by a factor of 3.25 for the period 1.1.1996 to 28.2.1998.

(ii) Introducing the concept of Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) in lieu of monthly allowance related to workload.

(iii) Increasing the amount of ex-gratia gratuity admissible from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 18,000.

(iv) Introducing the concept of paid leave at the rate of 10 days for every half-year without the provision of carry forward or encashment.

(v) Increasing office maintenance allowance admissible to Gramin Dak Sevak BPM from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.

(vi) Providing for lump sum Severance Amount of Rs. 20,000/- or Rs. 30,000/- depending on period of employment as post-employment benefit, on discharge from employment at the age of 65 years or death in harness or on absorption against departmental post.

These benefits were extended in full and final settlement of all pending demands relating to recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee. As regards demand for pension, no Government sponsored Social Security Scheme was found feasible, especially when provision for Severance Amount already exists. A Social Security Scheme formulated in consultation with LIC has been forwarded to the Postal Federations.